# FACT SHEET:

# UNSCR 1540

In April 2004, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1540, establishing for the first time binding obligations on all UN Member States under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540) obligates all Member States to make and enforce effective measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery, and related materials. If implemented successfully, each state's actions will significantly strengthen the international standards to prevent terrorists from gaining access to WMD. All states have three primary obligations under UNSCR 1540, to 1) prohibit support to non-state actors seeking WMD, 2) adopt and enforce effective laws prohibiting the proliferation of WMD to non-state actors, and 3) enforce effective measures to control WMD, their means of delivery, related materials, funding, and contributing services.

UNSCR 1540 established a UN Committee that reports to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution. The Committee is an international information clearinghouse, and helps them build capacity. By working in an open and transparent way, the Committee assists states in meeting their obligations and ensures that existing assistance programs have the most widespread availability.

UNSCR 1540 is not a U.S. Government program, but a multilateral obligation on all UN Member States. In addition to working towards meeting our domestic obligations under UNSCR 1540, the United States is supporting implementation efforts in other countries through a variety of mechanisms, including funding and expertise for workshops and outreach. The Department of State's Export Control and Related Border Security program is crucial to these efforts.

For more information on current efforts to implement UNSCR 1540 worldwide, please contact U.S. 1540 Coordinator Thomas A. Wuchte at (202) 736-4275 or usg1540@state.gov.